

Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Golden Sunlight Mine Pit Reclamation

July 2007



Montana Department of Environmental Quality
and
U.S. Bureau of Land Management



Mission Statement

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the stewardship of our public lands. It is committed to manage, protect, and improve these lands in a manner to serve the needs of the American people for all times. Management is based upon the principles of multiple use and sustained yield of our nation's resources within a framework of environmental responsibility and scientific technology. These resources include recreation; rangelands; timber; minerals; watershed; fish and wildlife; wilderness; air; and scenic, scientific, and cultural values.

The Department of Environmental Quality's mission is to protect, sustain, and improve a clean and healthful environment to benefit present and future generations.

Cover Photos

The top two photographs were taken in June 2000 and July 2003 showing the view of the East Waste Rock Dump Offload Area during mining and after reclamation. The center photo is an aerial view of the pit taken by Tom Weitz in August 2004. The lower two photographs on the front cover were taken in May 2000 and June 2003 showing the view of the West Waste Rock Dump during mining and after reclamation. Photos are courtesy of GSM and Spectrum Engineering.



**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Butte Field Office**



**State of Montana
Department of Environmental Quality**

July 2007

**Final
Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
Golden Sunlight Mine
Pit Reclamation**

State of Montana
Department of Environmental Quality
PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Butte Field Office
106 North Parkmont
Butte, MT 59701

July 2007

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for Pit Reclamation at the Golden Sunlight Mine (GSM).

To comply with the June 27, 2002, judgment of the Montana First Judicial District Court, the Montana Metal Mine Reclamation Act, and other applicable state and federal laws, rules, and regulations, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have prepared this SEIS to evaluate pit reclamation alternatives at GSM for DEQ Operating Permit No. 00065 and BLM Plan of Operations #MTM-82855. Under the Proposed Action (the Partial Pit Backfill With In-Pit Collection Alternative), GSM would partially backfill the open pit and install wells in the backfill material to collect groundwater. The Final SEIS analyzes the potential impacts of the Proposed Action (Partial Pit Backfill With In-Pit Collection) as well as the potential impacts of alternatives: 1) No Pit Pond (no action); 2) Partial Pit Backfill With Downgradient Collection; and 3) Underground Sump. The Final SEIS addresses issues and concerns raised during the public meetings conducted in Whitehall on January 31, 2005, Helena on March 14, 2005, and Butte on March 24, 2005, as well as the public comments received from December 16, 2004, until April 12, 2005. All new information and analysis supplied during the comment period and developed in response to comments received were used to prepare the Final SEIS. The operating permit is available for review at the DEQ office in Helena and at the BLM office in Butte.

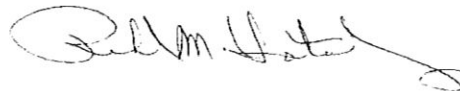
DEQ and BLM have identified the Underground Sump Alternative as the preferred alternative. The final decision will be made in the Record of Decision that will be prepared no sooner than 30 days after the Notice of Availability of the Final SEIS is published in the Federal Register.

The Final SEIS contains public comments and responses and changes to the Draft SEIS.

The agencies appreciate the public's involvement in preparing the Final SEIS. Additional copies are available upon request from DEQ or on the DEQ web site at www.deq.mt.gov. A copy of the Record of Decision will be sent to everyone who receives the Final SEIS.



Richard H. Opper, Director
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Department of Environmental Quality



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Butte Field Office

**Final Supplemental
Environmental Impact Statement**

**Golden Sunlight Mine Pit Reclamation
Jefferson County, Montana**

July 2007

Lead Agencies: United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Butte Field Office, and State of Montana, Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental Management Bureau.

Cooperating Agencies: None.

Participating Agencies/Governments: United States Environmental Protection Agency.

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Abstract: This Final SEIS supplements the April 1998 Final EIS, *Environmental Impact Statement Amending and Adopting the Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Golden Sunlight Mine*. The Final SEIS analyzes impacts associated with final pit reclamation. The Final SEIS analyzes four alternatives, including No Action and the Proposed Action. Major issues include pit reclamation, acid rock drainage, and groundwater and surface water quality. The preferred alternative at this time is the Underground Sump Alternative.

Dates: A Record of Decision will be prepared no earlier than 30 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability of the Final SEIS in the Federal Register. A copy of the Record of Decision will be sent to everyone who receives the Final SEIS.